

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

BRITISH NATION.

Thursday August, 3. 1710.

THE last time this Paper concern'd itself, in Discourſing of the *African* Company, I told you, the beſt way to judge of your own Follies, and of the Madneſs of theſe People that have endeavour'd to deſtroy the *African* Company, was to View the Price other People ſet upon this Trade, and the Improvement they make of it.

I think I have no need to enter upon a proof, of the Profits the *Dutch* make of the *Guinea* Trade, when I tell you, that the laſt Ship they had from thence, brought them home ſixty Thouſand Pounds in Gold-Duſt: Methinks I need ſay no more upon that Head—— When I ſhall add, that the *Dutch* have always ſhow'd them-

ſelves ready, to take all poſſible Advantages, to Encreaſe their Trade there, and to come into as much of ours as they can—I do not charge the *Dutch* with any Invaſions or Incroachments upon the Company; I am not blaming them at all, indeed they are not to be blam'd, it is nothing but what they ought to do, and what we ought not to neglect— And were the Company put into a Condition, to carry on their Trade as they ought to do, and as they would do, we ſhould ſoon encreaſe this Trade, to a Degree too big to be mention'd now, eſpecially when 'tis ſo low, but of that in its Place.

The *Dutch* ſhew their ſenſe of the Value of this Trade, by their willingneſs to

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Engross it as much as they can, and their eager pushing the Advantages they now have, of our Slackness in Management: I could enter into particulars here, and set down, by Way of History, the several Steps taken by the *Dutch*, to Encroach upon the Trade; to draw the Corresponding *Negroes* from us, and to assist other Nations, that have pretended to resist us — And such a History would not only be diverting and profitable, but would have some other uses, which I forbear to name now, I may enlarge upon them hereafter; but the present Argument is abundantly confirm'd by these Things, tho' spoken of only in a summary Way, viz. That the Consequence, and Value of this Trade, is abundantly prov'd, by the eager concern of the *Dutch*, to get as much of it into their Hands, and to make all possible Advantages, of our Mistakes and Disorders.

And this is the Reason, why I said in my last — Will you sell it? — Let the Creditors speak, for 'tis for their Interest that the best price should be made of the Effects, in order to their Satisfaction — There is no doubt to be made of it, you may all be paid, if you will get the Forts and Castles sold, either to *Dutch*, *French*, or *English*, that will bid most.

Now tho' it should be Objected, and it should pass for an Answer, that the Company have no Power (*I am satisfied they have no Will*) to sell them to the *Dutch* — Yet give me leave to say, it argues undeniably the Value of the Thing, that 1. The *Dutch* will give a large Consideration for them, and would be glad of the Purchase; and also that our People would not have them sold — But that by the Way; however give me leave to draw two Arguments, from the Consideration, which come home upon our present Circumstance, and which indeed seem to speak very plainly to those Gentlemen, who are now Court-ed to come into the Union, with the Company.

1. 'Tis the highest piece of Injustice in the World, that we should expect the Company should pay their full Debts, and yet will not obtain for them: (as I

am sure the Creditors might have done) a Liberty to make the best of their Effects, out of which you must be paid, or for ever remain unpaid.

2. If you go on, the *Dutch* will not buy them; the Case needs no explaining, tho' it seems to Contradict what has been said above — The thing is short; the *Dutch* are no Fools, they'll never buy what see will in time, fall into their Hands of course

You never found the *Dutch* so Weak, as you should imagine they would give any thing, for what they can get for nothing — Now to make it rational, that it will in time fall into their Hands, without a *Proviso*; I would fain recommend it to the separate Traders, or any Body else indeed, to answer me a Question or two.

Have the *Dutch*, since the present Embarrassment of the Company's Affairs, Encreas'd their Trade to *Africa*? Or have they not? And if they have, then I would ask another Question, to open our Eyes yet farther.

Have the *Dutch* doubled their Trade to *Africa*, since these Distractions? Or have they not?

And here I will add a note, (viz.) That this Encrease of the *Dutch*, whatever it appears to be, upon the most Essential and Valuable Part of the Trade, I mean the Returns to *Europe*; the *Gold*, the *Elephants Teeth*, and the like — And why do the *Dutch* thus Encroach? How comes it to pass, that they Encrease thus? — Have they Discover'd any new Coast? Have they gone farther up the Country? In short, Have they gain'd any thing, but what we have lost? Have they made any Encrease, but as we have Decreas'd? Have they brought home any *Gold*, but what if we had been in Condition, we should have had? I am persuaded it might be made out, they have not got one Ounce of *Gold*, or one *Elephants Tooth*, but what we have been forc'd to let slip through our Fingers, for want of Strength and Hands, to take it our selves.

Will any Man then Question, but that if this Union were fix'd, and the Trade restor'd,

restor'd, the Company's Debts might be paid, and the Trade preserv'd?——I confess it cannot but fill me with Wonder, to see the Creditors invited every Day, to Unite their Debts with the Company, to restore this Trade——If the Trade is not restor'd, their Debts are not worth any thing; If the *Dutch* gain your Factories, or surprize your People; Or if by being abandon'd here, the Company should be oblig'd to abandon their Footing there——What are your Debts worth? Who will give 5 per Cent. for the Bonds?——Is

it possible Men should want persuasions, in such a Case?——It cannot be; it can arise from no Reason, but wilful Design of Destruction to the Company, or neglect of informing themselves of the true State of the Case: To the first, I have nothing more to say——But that they may yet, if the rest are wise, see themselves disappointed; for the last, these Things are written for their Information, and that they may really be no longer Ignorant, nor have any Room left to pretend it.

MISCELLANEA.

THERE seems still a strange Harmony between our publick Affairs, and our private, and you look as if you were Infatuated in both; your Trading Credit, and your National Credit, seems to me just at this Time, to stand a tip-toe, tottering and ticklish; no Man knows which Way they will turn, and we our selves are the likest to give them the fatal Cast.

The Publick Credit has been sinking and declinining for some time——What's the Matter, there is yet no Capital Blow struck; the Dissolution of the Parliament, the Change of the Ministry, which we have been so long Threatened with in Discourse, is not yet happened; the fatal blow is not yet struck, the shock is not yet given——The Terror that has seiz'd us yet, is but an Apprehension, a Dread of the Thing; I wish those, on whose Breath this great Affair depends, would admitt the calm Reflection, of this part of the Matter——If the Suggestion, if the bare Report, if the flying Noise of the Thing, has reduc'd our Estates 13 or 14 per Cent. in Value; if the Appearance of it only, has put Trade to a full stop, the Nation into a kind of Fit of Trembling; if we are in a Feavour at the Apprehensions; if Credit suffers dying Pangs, and her Spirits run low now, what Convulsions shall we be thrown into, when the Arrow is shot, when

she feels the Wound in her Vitals, and when the mortal Blow strikes home into her very Heart?

The Allusion to the *African* Company is not improper here: I look upon a Capital Blow upon our National Credit, to be just like the *African* Company, selling their Forts and Castles to the *Dutch*.

No doubt but the Company have a Legal Right, to dispose of their Goods to the best Bidder, let them be *English*, *Dutch*, *Portuguese*, or any Body: No doubt but there is a Right, a Legal Power in being, in the Sovereign, to Dissolve the Parliament, Change the Administration, Divest the Treasury of its Guardian Angel, and the Army of its prosperous General, one the Soul of your Credit, and the other of your Victories——And if it pleases those, in whose Hand that Power is plac'd, to do this; I have nothing to do but to sit still, and be sorry for my Country's Disasters; but I cannot refrain while it is yet not done, to express my Thoughts of it, and I hope it may give Offence to none——I am only speaking my Opinion.

If the *African* Company sell their Forts, and Castles, and deliver the Possession of the Coast, into the Hands of their Enemies, I mean the *Dutch*, who we may call their Enemies in their Trading Capacity; others may say what they please, 'tis my Opinion, that

that from that Moment their Trade Dissolves; there is an end not only of the African Company, but of the African Trade; and we may seek to the Dutch for Negroes, for Gold, for Elephants Teeth, and the like; we have no more Business on the Coast; we can send no more Ships thither, no more Governours, no more Generalls — The Trade is finished, the Company is Dissolved, and the whole Matter is come to a Point; you may put a Grave-Stone upon the Place, and write upon it, *Here lies Interred the Body of the late Royal African Company.*

What shall we say to the Parallel? I'll do it with as much Tenderneſs as I can; if the Parliament is Dissolv'd; If the Ministry is Chang'd; if a Jacobine furious Party is brought upon us, others may think as they please, I put nothing upon them; but Humbly speaking my own Opinion, I cannot but think 'tis a Dissolving THE ALLIANCE; putting an End to the War, by giving up that Confederacy that has reduc'd France to the very brink of Ruin — I cannot think 'tis possible to be any thing else, in its Effect I mean, than a Dissolving and giving up the Alliance — God forbid I should suggest it is the Design of those that are to do it; tho' I make no Question, but it is in the Design of those that propose it — But if this is the probable Consequence, then it is the Duty of every Faithful Subj^t, to ASSIST in all peaceable manner to prevent it — And lest I be misunderstood, I explain my self, by assisting, to mean Humbly and Dutifully, to represent the Danger — I know it is a Nice and Dangerous Point, and it is not every Man that dare in a Juncture so critical, speak freely — However, let it be the Fate of this Author, to speak Truth, and suffer, rather than let a General Disaster befall his Country, and say nothing to it.

I give but my Thoughts, but, I'll give also a Reason, why I think so — And that is, I am persuaded that such a blow, will Ruin the Nations Credit, dissolve the Confidence we have now in another, and in the

Administration. Now observe the Chain, Money cannot be raised without Credit, hardly enough with it; the War cannot be carried on without Money; and if the War cannot be carried on, the Alliance cannot be Maintain'd.

I know it is suggested, why should the Queens Changing Hands, or Dissolving the Parliament ruin our Credit — I Answer, by giving the Reason why I think it will, viz. The Apprehension of the Change has already sunk our Credit, and therefore 'tis very Rational to judge, the Thing itself will be a fatal Blow to it; and I think 'tis fair arguing to say — That if the View of it at a distance, startles and aff^s our People, and Checks their Confidence in the Government; the blow itself when it comes, must make a much deeper Impression,

I doubt not, some Gentlemen that push at this Matter, may have other Thoughts, and perhaps if they had not, they would not push forward the Design — But he that kindles a Fire, in the Confidence of quenching it, does not always know what he is doing — I'll give yet another Reason, why I think such a thing would Ruin our Credit — For I am but telling you my Opinion.

I believe it, because the French apparently place their hopes of retrieving all their Affairs, upon the View of our Confusions, and upon a View of ruining our Credit; and upon that Suggestion, venture to request Peace, tho' 'tis apparent they are in the uttermost Distress to carry on the War. These are my Reasons, why I think that this Change at this time, will Ruin our Credit, Dissolve the Alliance, and leave the French to Triumph over us — The farther Consequences of such a Thing; such as the Confederates all shifting for themselves, every one making separate Peace, and taking care of their separate Interests, England being left alone in the War, and how unable to carry it on, God knows; these are things I need not enlarge upon, let any thinking Man judge of them.

Printed for and sold by John Baker, at the Black-Boy in Pater-Noster-Row. 1710.

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Saturday, August 5. 1710

I Gave you the Original in one of my last, of this fair Lady we call CREDIT; I must pursue an Enquiry about her; for since she is so slighted, so dishonour'd, and so meanly thought of among you, it is but meet that I should let you know who it is, you put so much Contempt upon — Perhaps it may move you, to shew more Breeding to a Lady of her Quality, for your own sakes, and that before she resents it so much, as to remove her Lodging.

I told you, this Lady chiefly delighting in Business, apply'd her self to that part of the World, which is concern'd in Trade, Commerce, Merchandizing, and Manu-

facturing; here she vouchsafed to Sociate with the meanest Shop-Keeper, Country Wooll-Comber, or petty Chapmen, to Encourage good Husbandry, Diligence, and Industry, for the general Improvement of Mankind — In her Conversation thus far below her self, she yet keeps up the Majesty and Dignity of her Nature and Original; she will keep Company with none but the Industrious, the Honest, the Laborious, and such, whose Genius, and the Bent of their Lives, tends to Maintain her good Opinion: If a Tradesman neglect his Shop, a Handicraft grows idle, runs to the Alehouse; if a Dealer turns Sot, or a Gentleman Debauch'd — She's gone away

way she flies, they are sure to be forsaken of her Company, they may go on by meer Strength of Stock, and upon the help she formerly afforded them — But they must expect no more Assistance from her, till they take up, turn over a new Leaf, and reform the Crime.

If the lights of a Young Man full of Application, sober, sensible, and honest, that lays his Bones to his Work, and his Head to his Business; that doats upon his Shop, that has his Heart behind his Counter, whose Mistress is his Counting House, and his Pleasure is in his Ledger — She'll set him up without a Stock, marry him without a Portion; she will stand at his Door to invite his Customers, she will buy Goods for him in every Ware-House, she will lay him in a Stock, and furnish his Shop without Payment; *in short*, she will make him Rich, *as we say*, in spite of his Teeth. — She'll support him, she'll carry him through the World upon her Shoulders — When he walks, she leads him; when he sleeps, she awakes for him, and when he swims, she holds him by the Chin.

Let us leave this part of her Conduct, and View her in Publick Business; and here we find her Conversant, as I noted before, in Banks, Exchanges, Exchequers, in the publick Treasuries, and Finances, of Princes, of Nations — And here it is that I am to Examine her Conduct, her absolute Authority, her Application, her Usefulness, the Necessity all the World stands in, of her help, and the languishing, weak, despised Condition of the most Flourishing Nation, when she has abandoned them.

I remember, when formerly I Discours'd of this Coy Lady, in her publick Capacity, I gave you the short History of her Treatment in this Country, how she liv'd and flourish'd here, in ancient Times — I'll go back a little; King *Harry V.* brought her over from *France*; she hid her self in the Broils of *Harry VI.* she shunn'd the Crooked Tyrant *Richard III.* for fear he should Ravish her: *K. Henry VII.* disobligh'd her by his Covetousness; and *K. Henry VIII.* lost her Favour by immoderate

profuseness: *Note here by the Way*, a dishonourable Covetousness, is as much an Enemy to *Credit*, as extravagant Wasting; because a Covetous Man, I mean such a one as will break his Word to keep his Money, as well as the other, regards no Honour, that he may squander it away — *K. Edward VI.* began to be acquainted with this Lady, and she grew fond of him, but his Ambitious Uncles made her uneasy, and the Young King died too soon, before he could get her to settle here — Queen *Mary* knew nothing of her, till she Married King *Philip* of *Spain*, and he brought her over with him — But as she came with him, she went with him too, and Queen *Elizabeth* came to the Crown without her — She was a wise Princess, and quickly found the want of her; but having rummag'd all *Europe* for her, there was no finding her high nor low; her *Dudly* sought her in *Holland*, but lost more of her than he carried over — The Queen sent over to *K. Henry IV.* of *France* for her, but she was not there: *ESSEX* rummag'd *Ireland*; *Invaded Spain*, Plunder'd *Cadiz*, *Isulted Lisbon*, but got no Credit there: *Sir Francis Drake* sail'd round the World, and yet came Home without her — At last she was brought Home in a Great Ship of Silver, taken from the *Spaniards*, and the Queen Coin'd her into broad Shillings — Yet she never lov'd Queen *Elizabeth*, and a little before her Death, both she, and her Kinswoman Reputation left that Queen entirely; some say her Treatment of the Queen of *Scots*, and the Earl of *Essex* disobligh'd the one, and old *Burleigh's* Covetousness the other; but certain it is, that Queen *Elizabeth* out-liv'd the Favour of both these Ladies — And by Consequence when King *James* came hither, he had no Acquaintance with either of them, but what little he had obtain'd in *Scotland*, and that he quickly lost here — For he liv'd and died without her.

King *Charles I.* us'd her Civilly, and Court'd her very much at first, but he fled to so many Shifts, and little Methods to uphold his Interest in her Favour, that she fled for fear of being brought into the Star-Chamber; and when the War broke out

Out——She went over to the Parliament——They Hugg'd and Embrac'd her, carry'd her into the City, and plac'd her in the *Guild-Hall* there, in great Pomp and State; immediately the Thimbles and Bodkins, the Plate, the Money, came tumbling in so fast, that it was no Wonder the Parliament was too hard for the King——They kept her all the three first Years of the War, till they fell out among themselves, and then truly she was fairly a going; but *Oliver Cromwell* got hold of her, took her Prisoner, and when he had her in his Clutches, he kept her by Force——And whether for Fear of his High-Commission Court, or for Fear he should Commit a Rape upon her——She stay'd with him to the Day of his Death: Whether she fled after that, I know not; but she was lost for a Time, 'twas thought Cardinal *Maçarine*

had got her into *France*——However she came over again at the Restoration and began to think of settling here, but King *Charles II.* so disoblig'd her, by shutting-up the Exchequer, and the City by their Chamber-Cheat, that she turn'd her back upon them both, in a great Passion, and there was great Reason to fear she had forsaken our Country.

How she came over again at the Revolution, declin'd us a little at the calling in the Old Money, reviv'd a little upon the new Coin——And how she has, *as last*, with infinite Difficulty, exquisite Cecidus, and the most nice Honour in Management of the Treasury, been brought to a chearful Residence among us: What she has done for us, and what may be the Consequence of disobliging her again, remains to be spoken of.

MISCELLANEA.

THE Author of this Paper craves Pardon of the Reader, to interrupt the Affair for once, to Answer a Gentleman, who has sent a most extraordinary Letter to Mr. Baker the Publisher; concerning a Word in the Review, which it seems Affronted him: I'll state the Case first fairly, and then give him my Answer briefly, and the World shall judge of the Matter.

In the Review N^o 53, speaking of the Peculiarities of Nations, I Printed this Expression——“Why the French are hasty, the Spaniard slow, the German terrible, the Pole unconstant, the Swede brave, the Scots furious, the Italian jealous, the Portuguese effeminate, the Dutch parsimonious, the Irish simple? &c.

The Gentleman taking Offence at this Expression, has been pleas'd to send the following Letter to Mr. Baker, Publisher of this Paper; which I here put in, Word for Word, without any Enlargement, only omitting the Gentleman's Name, in Civili-

ty to him, because I would not expose him.

Mr. Baker,

YOUR Friend De Foe, as I told you, gives himself damn'd Airs, to reflect on the Kingdom of Ireland, as Simple, without Reserve or Distinction: Is it because the Protestants of that Kingdom distinguish'd themselves so gloriously in the happy Revolution; and from that time to this Day, have retain'd that Principle, and have distinguish'd themselves Eminently, in the late and present War?

Is it because the Protestants of that Kingdom in general, (except some saucy fiery Clergy-men) are steady and sincere for the Protestant Succession? Can Mr. De Foe say, that there's any part of her Majesty's Dominions so Unanimous and Steady for the Protestant Interest and Succession, as the Protestants of Ireland are, who can raise (I may safely say) 150000 fighting Men in the Province of Ulster, of Revolution-Principle, and for the Hanover Succession? By the Word Irish, is meant those that are Born in that Kingdom, and
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have the greatest Power in it, which is the Protestant Party; so by the same Authority that Mr. De Foe reflects on that Kingdom and Party, if he does not recant and explain himself, I will take care that he shall be duly Chastized, si inventus; if not, a Reward shall be offer'd in the Post-Boy, to any Person that will discover him to an Honest Whig.

London July 27. 1710.

Now the Answer the Author of the Review gives to this Gentleman, is, to desire he will consider a few Questions.

1. How he makes it appear, that, as he pretends to explain it, by the Word *Irish* is meant, those that are born in that Kingdom, and have the greatest Power in it? — And if that does not appear who is in the wrong, he or the Author?
2. Whether by the Word *IRISH*, as commonly spoken, is not always understood, both in Print, as well as in common Acceptation, the Native *Irish* of that Kingdom, distinguish'd by the Name of *Irish*, from the Protestant Inhabitants of that Kingdom?
3. Whether his taking it otherwise, does not go farther, to make the Review's Observation just, if it had meant the other Way, than any thing the Author has written about it?
4. Whether he thinks the Character, given by the Author of the Review to the *Irish*, be the Review's own, or not? — And whether he cannot bring more Authors to justify it, than this Gentleman can bring Rules to prove, that he has pass'd a right Censure, or Treated the Review with good Manners?
5. Whether he thinks the Review has wrong'd the *Irish*, or not; and whether a new, known and Popular Author, has not abundantly justified his Expression, viz. The Author of a Letter, from one Member of Parliament to another, from North to South Britain — Just now Printed and Pub-

lish'd at Edinburgh; wherein the Author, a Person of Quality, speaking of the People there, being amused with the Rumors of Publick Affairs, has this Expression, I doubt not but all this Originally comes from England, tho' it is so very senseless and ridiculous, that it might have been bred in AN IRISH HEAD?

Whether this Gentleman therefore has read the Review, with his *English* or *Irish* Understanding, I know not — I know as well as he, what kind of Protestants, Inhabit both the North and the East part of Ireland, and have as much Honour for them, as himself: But if I were to meet any one of these, and call him an *Irish Man*, he would think me in the wrong, and say he was an *English Man*, or a *Scots Man* of Ireland — But a meer Native *Irish Man*, that Winks when he Fires, and draws his Horses by the Tail — If these are wrong'd by me — I have their Pardon to ask, and not this Gentleman's, who but for his Name, I should really have taken for an *Irish Man*, by his wise Judgment of the Review.

As to his Proposal of Chastizing the Author of the Review, — it is answer'd; When his Advertisement with the Reward, is publish'd in the Post-Boy, he shall hear farther; perhaps he may see the Author of the Review is not so hard to be found, as he imagine. — He Subscribes himself an honest Whigg, if he be such, I must tell him, Assassinations and Publick Threatnings of People, are none of their Principle; the honest People of *Ulster*, that he would Fancy Injur'd, do not practise them — And as honest a Whigg as he, is not to be scar'd by them.

ERRATA.

REVIEW N^o 56. p. 218. Col. 1. l. 19. for as much of it into their Hands, r. as much of it as they can into their Hands; ib. col. 2. l. 10. for what see, r. what they see; ib. l. 31. for upon the most Essential. r. is upon the most Essential; p. 220. col. 1. l. the last, for in another, r. in one another.

Printed for and sold by John Baker, at the Black-Boy in Pater-Noster-Row. 1710.